

MARY JOYNSON JACKSON

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Mary J. Jackson, a daughter of Thomas and Mary Clay Joynson, was born August 30, 1819, in Barra, Cheshire, England. Her parents were farmer folk, so she grew up surrounded by the scenes of country life. Her opportunities being limited, her education was very meagre, although she was able to read.

In 1836 she married John Jackson, a young man of almost her own age. He was born March 17, 1819, in her native village. His father, John Jackson, was a street paver, while John, Jr., became a carpenter.

In 1841 this young couple joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, being among the first to accept the gospel in England. For twenty-seven years Mr. Jackson and wife kept open house for the Mormon elders and many there were who came and went as the years rolled by.

One June 4, 1868, John and Mary and seven children emigrated to America, leaving their two older sons, who were married, in England. They crossed the ocean on the sailing vessel "John Bright," landing in New York July 13. 1868 crossed the plains in Captain John R. Murdock's company and arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 30, 1868.

Bishop Evans of Lehi, who was present when the company arrived, made enquiry concerning tradesmen and on learning that Mr. Jackson was a carpenter, asked permission of Presiding Bishop Hunter, who had charge of the immigration business, if he might take him to Lehi. Bishop Hunter replied in his characteristic way, "Yes, yes, take him along, lock, stock, and barrel," and that is how it happened that the family came to Lehi.

The names of the children who came at this time were: Enos, Hyrum, Joseph, Mary Rebecca (Mrs. Moroni Holt), Daniel, Harriett (Mrs. James Brooks), Sarah

(Mrs. Henry McComie). Ephraim, and Moses. John and Henry came to Utah some years later.

For a number of years Mr. Jackson followed the carpenter trade, but the change in climate seemed to break his health. Like all pioneers, he had to turn his hand to various occupations among which was cutting and hauling cedar posts to Salt Lake City. On the 5th of January, 1870, while returning from Salt Lake City, where he had been with a load of posts, he was accidentally thrown from the wagon by the dropping of the wheel in a hole in the road and in falling, his head was caught in the wheel and his neck broken.

About two years later, the widow married John Shaw, with whom she lived until the time of his death, which occurred in 1881. Mother Jackson, as she was familiarly known, lived to a ripe old age, loved and respected by all who knew her for her happy, cheerful disposition. She died December 21, 1906.